

Dutch Perfin - WS/&Co

Martin O'Grady (#2243)

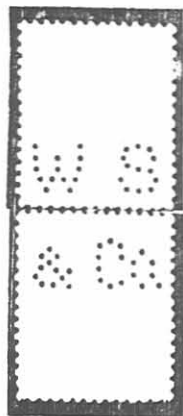
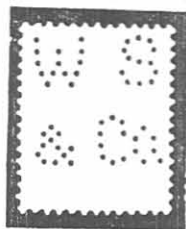
Recently, I received a call from Hans Kremer, Secretary-Editor of our little Dutch Club (Netherlands Philatelists of California) asking me information about Netherlands perfin WS/&Co, if I had any and how they were perfinned. I told him I had the usual issues of perfins within the pattern but one was different in that just the "WS" showed thru

the front of the stamp and almost to the bottom.

He told me he was browsing through *Filatelie Informatif*, a discontinued Dutch publication, and he had found an article about the WS pattern. This story in the May 1995 issue of our clubs publication, based upon his translation of the Dutch article.

Mr. van der Ham's story has a story built within. It was a lousy job to do, and the cashier certainly questioned the honesty of the employee by watching over him while the perfin pattern was cut into the stamps, which basically was why stamps were perforated in the first place.

/s/ Marty



The article referred to in Marty's letter:

WS & Co. Perfin (or WS and Co perfin)

In *Filatelie Informatief*, 1 May 1988, there is an interesting story about one of the more common Dutch perfins: "WS & Co." which stood for the W. Schipper & Co., Insurance Company of Rotterdam. A Mr. M. van der Ham wrote: "Around 1937/38 I worked at the W. Schipper Company as a junior clerk. I remember, like it happened yesterday, that when I came back from buying stamps, the cashier pulled the 'perforator' from the vault, and made me perforate the stamps while he was watching. It was a heavy piece of equipment and it only had one cancel. Neither I nor the other junior clerks enjoyed this job. We tried to place as many stamps as possible (about five or six) in the perforator at one time. This caused occasional jams and it took a lot of work to dislodge them. It was then that I found out that by folding the stamps in various layers in such a way that one stamp would be perforated WS and the other by the &Co. I could now perforate more than one stamp at a time."

Marty already told me that he did find one copy of these. Remember, this happened in the late thirties, so don't expect to see this on the earlier stamps.

Hans Kremer.